

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



North Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Released: March 28, 2005
For Month Ending: March 27, 2005
ND-CW1305

Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
FARM SERVICE AGENCY,
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN) and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

General: Mild weather during March provided favorable calving and lambing conditions, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Much needed moisture was received in the southern part of the state; however, dry soil conditions still prevailed. Producers were preparing machinery and lining up inputs for spring fieldwork. On average, statewide, there were 0.9 inches of snow cover on March 27, compared to 0.8 inches last year on March 28 and 0.9 inches last month. The south central district reported the most snow cover with an average of 3.8 inches followed by 2.2 in the northeast district. The east central district reported no snow cover.

County and secondary roads were rated 96 percent open, 3 difficult and 1 closed. Road conditions were 78 percent dry, 1 drifted and 21 muddy.

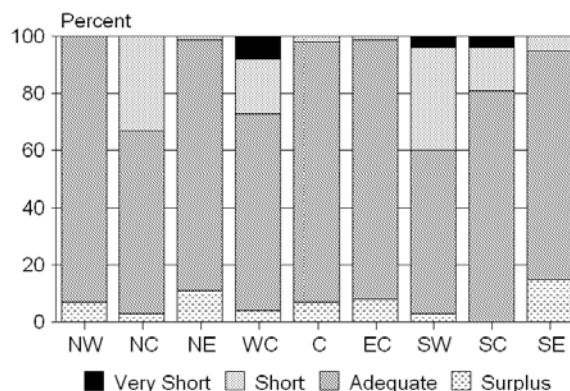
Crops: The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 16, 2005, 2 days behind last year. The expected starting dates range from April 10 in the southeast district to May 4 in the north central district.

Livestock: Mild weather conditions during the month helped maintain feed resources. Calving and lambing proceeded during March with little difficulty due to mild conditions. Calving was 41 percent complete and lambing was 59 percent complete compared with 41 and 61 percent last year, respectively. Shearing was 80 percent complete. Cattle conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 12 fair, 72 good and 14 excellent. Calf conditions were 1 percent poor, 11 fair, 77 good and 14 excellent. Sheep conditions

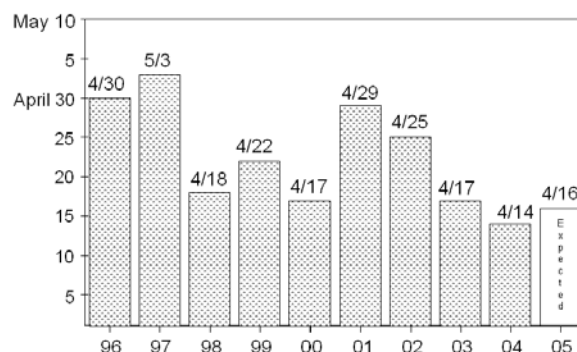
were rated 1 percent poor, 13 fair, 74 good and 12 excellent. Lambing conditions were rated 11 percent fair, 80 good and 9 excellent.

Hay and forage supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 15 short, 77 adequate and 6 surplus. This compared to last year's rating of 2 percent very short, 15 short, 79 adequate and 4 surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were 1 percent very short, 4 short, 84 adequate, 11 surplus. All pastures were still dormant.

Hay & Forage Supplies by District
North Dakota, March 27, 2005



Average Starting Date For Fieldwork
North Dakota, 1996-2005



~ Compiled and Published by ~

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Weather: March 2005 ended as a dry month with temperatures close to average for the state. Temperatures for the month ranged from 5 degrees below normal in the northeast part of the state to 3 degrees above normal in the west. Precipitation was below normal across the state. The driest conditions were found in the Red River Valley, with Fargo and Grand Forks running deficits over 0.5 of an inch. Little snowfall was reported across the state. A storm on the 10th brought a couple of inches of snow to the northern and northeastern sections of the state. Another storm on the 22nd brought 1-3 inches of snow across the central and western areas of the state.

Outlook, April: The outlook for April calls for temperatures to be at or slightly above normal. Fairly mild temperatures should prevail through the first half of the month. Precipitation for the month of April looks to be above normal. Precipitation for the first half of the month looks to be below average, with only minor chances for precipitation through the first week. A storm system will bring a chance for rain across the state on the 4th. A more active weather pattern looks to take shape for the second and third week of the month, bringing wetter conditions to the state.

TEMPERATURE, March 1-27, 2005

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm ^{1/}
(Degrees F)				
NORTHWEST	55	2	27	2
Bowbells	NA	NA	NA	NA
Williston	61	7	31	3
Mohall	51	0	25	0
Minot	54	-1	27	2
NORTH CENTRAL	50	-3	23	1
Baker	52	1	23	1
Bottineau	48	-6	23	1
Rugby	NA	NA	NA	NA
NORTHEAST	50	-11	20	-3
Cando	50	-7	21	-4
Cavalier	48	-14	20	-4
Forest River	56	-11	22	-2
Grand Forks	57	-11	22	1
Langdon	42	-12	18	-4
St. Thomas	48	-14	19	-5
WEST CENTRAL	61	1	29	1
Hazen	64	-2	29	2
Turtle Lake	58	-3	27	0
Watford City	61	8	31	0
CENTRAL	54	-7	23	-2
Carrington	59	-2	25	-1
Harvey	56	-3	26	1
Jamestown	62	0	27	0
Robinson	61	-1	26	0
Streeter	63	-1	26	-1
EAST CENTRAL	59	-6	25	-1
Dazey	60	-6	25	-1
Fargo	57	-4	26	0
Hillsboro	59	-8	24	-2
SOUTHWEST	64	9	32	2
Beach	62	10	32	2
Bowman	64	11	32	3
Dickinson	63	8	31	2
Hettinger	65	8	32	2
SOUTH CENTRAL	67	1	29	1
Mandan	67	1	29	1
Linton	67	1	29	0
SOUTHEAST	61	-9	27	1
Edgeley	62	-4	27	0
Oakes	62	-13	27	1
Wyndmere	58	-10	27	1

^{1/} Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.